

Amendments to specification

Pages 2-3, amend the SUMMARY section as follows:

An object of the present invention is to provide a means for motivating team players engaged in sports and other endeavors, so they identify with one another, and to motivate them in thought and feelings as a team, so they make maximum effort toward winning against opposing teams in competitive events. A further object is to motivate sports fans in support of teams' achievement of the same goals. A still further object of the invention is to ~~elicit~~eliciting metaphors for winning.

In accord with the invention, apparatus and method for communicating and motivating metaphorically about ~~winning~~winning in a sports team or other team competition comprises a broom assembly and a dustpan assembly. The broom assembly comprises a broom handle, with a first group of figurines connected to the handle by their heads or some other part. The figurines extend transversely to the length of the broom handle, as do bristles of a normal broom. When communicating about a sports competition, the first group wears uniforms of a first team. The dustpan assembly comprises a dustpan and a second group of figurines, which wear the uniforms of one or more other sports teams. The figures of the second group lie about, in disorderly fashion, in a dustpan, communicating that they have been swept there by the broom assembly. The invention communicates a "clean sweep" metaphor, that is, that the first team wins by overcoming the one or more competitors which have been swept into the dustpan. When a competition other than sports is being represented, for instance business or political competition, the first and second group figurines will have uniforms appropriate to that situation.

Preferably, the first group of figurines are made of semi-rigid or rigid plastic, and have similar posture and orientation; and, their the heads are adhered directly to the broom handle as by mechanical or adhesive attachment. Alternately, the figurines are connected to the

handle by bristles. Preferably, the handle is like that of a common counter broom. In another embodiment, a whisk broom or other kind of broom is represented.

page 4, amend last full paragraph

A first group of figurines, symbolizing sports players of a first team, is adhered to the broom. They are dressed alike, with the uniform of a first team. A second group of figurines, symbolizing the players of one or more second teams, are contained within the dustpan. In one embodiment, each figurine ~~wear~~-is dressed differently, in the uniform of one of many different opponent teams. In another embodiment, all figurines are dressed the same, in the uniform of one opponent team.

Page 6, amend second, third and fourth paragraphs as follows:

As shown by Fig. 2, the dustpan assembly 22 is comprised of a pan 28 and a second group of figurines 30B reposed on the bed 32 of the pan. Pan 28 has the shape of a conventional dustpan. Flared sidewalls 34 run around three sides of the bed 32, to contain objects on the bed; and handle 36 extends from the rear of the bed, ~~so~~^{so} the pan can be conveniently held. The dustpan may be made of plastic, metal, wood or other structural material.

Pan 28 is proportioned to the broom assembly 20, to communicate to the viewer that the broom assembly can be used in conjunction with the dustpan. For example, the width of the bed of the pan may be approximately equal to or greater than the length of the row of figurines on the broom. Thus, a person looking at the two assemblies 20, 22 as they are displayed conjunctively in use, will appreciate that the particular broom 20 is suited for sweeping comparatively small objects, e.g., figurines 30B, into the bed 32 of pan 28, and imagine said figurines have been swept there by the broom assembly. In the generality of the invention, other configurations of dustpan, like those known in the art, may be employed in substitution of the common shape pan in Fig. 2.

The multiplicity of figurines 30B, comprises a second group, representing human members of one or more other sports teams, which team(s) is different from the first sports team simulated by the figurines 30A, which are attached to the broom. In one embodiment, each figurine 30B is substantially alike, to identify a second team. Therefore, the second group

would be dressed with the stylized uniform of an actual or potential rival team. In another embodiment, some or all of figurines 30B are distinct in appearance from each other, as well as from the figurines of the first group. For example, each figurine 30B may represent a player of another different competitor team of the team represented in the broom assembly. And, in one embodiment, the group of figurines 30B will represent all the major competitors of the first team, which is represented by figurines 30A of broom assembly 20.

Page 7, amend last paragraph with the following

In ~~one~~ another mode of using the invention, figurines 30B are manually arranged to repose within the pan, so that the different figurines are spaced apart and oriented in a way which suits the fancy of the user. In aspect of this mode, the figurines 30B are loose within the pan. In another mode, figurines 30B may be attached to the pan, for instance by adhesive or permanent means. Alternately, the figurines may be removably attached with a two-part hook and loop type fastener system, by magnets (when the pan is metal), adhesive, or other releasable means. In another display arrangement, for any mode, broom assembly 20 may be overlaid onto pan 28 and the figurines contained therein.

Amend the ABSTRACT with the following

Apparatus for communicating and motivating metaphorically about ~~winning~~winning in a sports team or other team competition comprises a broom handle having a first group of figurines attached thereto by their heads, and extending outwardly, as do bristles of a brush. The first group wears uniforms of a first team. A dustpan contains a second group of figurines, reposed in disorderly fashion in a dustpan, as they may have been swept there by the broom assembly. The second group is dressed with uniforms of one or more competitors of the first group team. The invention communicates a "clean sweep" metaphor, i.e., the first team wins, by overcoming the one or more competitors in the dustpan.